Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/cautbulletin1_1

C.A.U.T.
BIBLIOTHÈQUE A.C.P.U.

Vol.1 No.1

(Jan. 1953)

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS

B U L L E T I N

A Report to the Members on the Activities of the Association.

1. Message from the President

It is no small honour to be writing to you in this first issue of the CAUT Bulletin. While this issue is not very pretentious, it is a beginning and a sign of things to come. The existence of the CAUT means that at long last Canadian University Teachers have a National Voice, and it is not too much to hope that, in time, this Bulletin will provide a Forum for the discussion of our national educational needs and problems.

There are now 13 local associations - UBC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Toronto, McMaster, Carleton, Queen's,Sir George Williams, McGill, Laval, Dalhousie, and the Memorial College in St. John's, Newfoundland. All are represented in our membership. Some of these Associations have affiliated, or have applied for affiliation, as a group, with the CAUT; from others, a considerable proportion of the local membership has taken out individual memberships in the CAUT. This national body now represents over 1200 University Teachers and the number is increasing. Naturally, we would like to see all local members also members of CAUT. The National Body can provide a valuable service to local units, not only as an information centre and liaison as it has tried to be, with some success this year, but also in representing the University Teaching Profession as a whole on national issues such as Federal grants and the Massey Commission recommendations regarding scholarships. If it were possible for the CAUT to express the unanimous

opinion of two or three thousand University teachers, its pronouncement on such matters would carry much weight with those in high places.

The McGill Association has had an interesting experience this term. We have prepared and presented to the Administration a Salary Brief with quite specific recommendations. To some of you, this is an old story. You have submitted briefs, experienced success and repeated the performance----a second time, or even a third. Some of the magic of the experience may have worn off. This is our first effort, (I almost said offence!) and it's still rather fresh in our minds. I don't think we quite realize what we have done .... respectable, middle-class intellectuals that we are. But it's true, and a bit surprising, that the worm has finally turned and reared its ugly head!

The McGill Salary Brief has gone out to all local Associations, as have the briefs and reports on salary studies which have been sent from other Associations to the National Office. I hope these may have been found useful or at least interesting to you. May I suggest that, in sending reports to the National Office, you send at least 20 copies, so that we may distribute them without delay.

Reports on local salaries have been tabulated on a single sheet and sent out in quantity. This sheet is being kept up-to-date, and a new issue will be produced and made available to all members, at least once a year, so that the latest salary data will always be on hand. If your Association has not yet sent in information on your local salary situation, please do so at once so that the next issue of the "pay sheet" will be complete.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found reference to the reports and work of other committees. The problems on which these committees are working have been with us for a long time - so long, in fact, that many of us have grown rather cynical about them. But now that we no longer seek to escape our responsibility by saying that "they" should do something about it, and have started

collectively to do something ourselves, some of the issues have sharpened and the real sources of opposition to change are revealing themselves.

What goes on in Canadian Universities is pretty much up to us. As individuals, we always have the choice of selling our souls or of keeping them, and when the kids have no shoes and the going is tough, the temptation is quite real. As a member of a group, however, the more we maintain our integrity, the stronger the group becomes and the greater the probability that its just demands will be met. Thus whether it is a decent salary as against a subsistence wage; a democratic set-up as against an authoritarian one; logical and just rules of tenure as against arbitrary ones; the freedom and leisure to do an effective job of teaching and research as against the rat-race of too many hours of teaching, too many committees, too much of the drudgery of essay reading and report making - too much of everything but time - it's really up to us. As individuals, with no sabbatical leave to save us, we are more or less doomed to have our thrombosis on the Campus - unless we decide to sell our souls and get out from under most of it. As a group, we can pretty much write our own ticket. But it does call for the exercise of intelligence - and group solidarity. Surely we have enough intelligence and enough remaining loyalty to those values which the University represents to say, as a group, "this is the way it is going to be" and to hold fast until it is that way.

2. Activities of Committees of the C.A.U.T.

(a) Committee on Income Tax Exemptions

This Committee, under the Chairmanship of K.F. Byrd (McGill), Treasurer of the C.A.U.T., was set in motion at the October meeting of the Executive Council. The initial membership was drawn from McGill and Queen's and the Committee was charged with two activities. The first is to prepare a short statement to be made available to members, of the present operation of exemptions under the Income Tax Act. This statement is

now being studied by the Committee. At least two other Associations, Saskatchewan and Carleton College, have set up Committees to co-operate with the CAUT Committee on this project.

(b) Committee on Tenure

The University of Manitoba Association of University Teachers, which has already produced a fine report on the problem of tenure, has been asked to co-ordinate the activities of committees of other Associations on tenure, and to report on their behalf to the Association.

(c) Committee on Sabbatical Leave

The Sir George Williams Association of University Teachers has set up a Committee on Sabbatical Leave. The Secretary has already asked other universities for information on the present practice and regulation regarding Sabbatical Leave in Canadian Universities, and has asked the Sir George Williams Association to submit its report to the CAUT.

3. Activities of Local Associations

Dalhousie and McGill have set up Committees to study the Statutes of their respective universities. Laval has under way a study of retirement plans. Committees on tenure are active at McGill, Carleton College, and Manitoba. The McGill Association held a panel discussion at a general meeting of its members on the Financing of Research. This discussion attracted wide interest among members and the Association has, in response to strong request from its members set up a Committee to study the whole question of the financing and organization of research. A new and active association has been formed at the Memorial University, St. John's, Nfld.

4. Meetings of the Executive Council of the Association

(a) October meeting - The meeting of the Annual Conference of the Institute of Public Administration in

Montreal brought to Montreal a substantial number of members of the Executive Council. As a consequence, the officers decided to hold a meeting of the Executive Council attended by as many members of the Council as were in Montreal, together with alternates where, in certain cases, representatives from some universities were not present. A number of items of routine business were transacted, reports were received, the Committee on Income Tax problems set up, and steps were taken to expedite information made available to the Salary Committee (the Report of the Committee on Salaries is referred to elsewhere in this bulletin).

(b) February meeting - Agenda notices have now been sent out for a February meeting of the Council in Montreal at which, it is hoped, most members of Council from Ontario and Quebec will be able to attend. Among important items of business to be dealt with are Arrangements for the Annual Meeting, Relations with the International Association of University Professors and Lecturers and with the American Association of University Professors, and certain applications for Affiliation. Any members having views on these or other matters are urged to write them to the Secretary in time to be considered at the Council meeting on February 21st.

5. Visit by the Secretary to Eastern Universities

The Secretary was able, while on other business (and at no cost to the Association) to visit a number of universities in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces in December, 1952. While there he was able to have useful discussions regarding the work of the Association with members of the Association and officers of local associations. Local associations do not always realize the variety of services in the way of liaison and information which can be provided for them by CAUT. Such visits by officers of the Association tend to strengthen activity both locally and on the national scene.

6. A Suggestion for Interesting Members

One way of putting across the purpose and

Montreal brought to Montreal a substantial number of members of the Executive Council. As a consequence, the officers decided to hold a meeting of the Executive Council attended by as many members of the Council as were in Montreal, together with alternates where, in certain cases, representatives from some universities were not present. A number of items of routine business were transacted, reports were received, the Committee on Income Tax problems set up, and steps were taken to expedite information made available to the Salary Committee (the Report of the Committee on Salaries is referred to elsewhere in this bulletin).

(b) February meeting - Agenda notices have now been sent out for a February meeting of the Council in Montreal at which, it is hoped, most members of Council from Ontario and Quebec will be able to attend. Among important items of business to be dealt with are Arrangements for the Annual Meeting, Relations with the International Association of University Professors and Lecturers and with the American Association of University Professors, and certain applications for Affiliation. Any members having views on these or other matters are urged to write them to the Secretary in time to be considered at the Council meeting on February 21st.

5. Visit by the Secretary to Eastern Universities

The Secretary was able, while on other business (and at no cost to the Association) to visit a number of universities in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces in December, 1952. While there he was able to have useful discussions regarding the work of the Association with members of the Association and officers of local associations. Local associations do not always realize the variety of services in the way of liaison and information which can be provided for them by CAUT. Such visits by officers of the Association tend to strengthen activity both locally and on the national scene.

6. A Suggestion for Interesting Members

One way of putting across the purpose and

nature of association of university teachers is to encourage our colleagues to read such journals as the Bulletin of the American Association of University Professors, the journal of the Association of University Teachers of the United Kingdom, and Communication, the journal of the International Association of University Professors and Lecturers. All of these journals contain articles of high quality of general interest to all concerned with universities. A good many Canadian universities now have these journals available in Faculty Reading Rooms, Staff Common Rooms, Faculty Clubs, and the like. All three journals will be found to be worth-while additions to the magazine racks frequented by faculty members.

(Jan. 1953)